

tional sales of chattels. "No proviso, condition, stipulation, agreement or statement contained in any lien, note, hire receipt, contract for the conditional sale of chattels, or in any other contract, which provides that any action, matter or other proceedings shall be tried in any particular place, shall be of any force or effect," was the clause to be substituted for section 1a of the act, and it raised a prolonged discussion in which Messrs. Lewis, Foy, Duff, Preston (Brant), Hoyle, Gamey, Hislop, McMillan and others took part. The Attorney-General thought the bill should not pass in its present shape. It was retroactive and interfered with the right of people to make contracts.

Mr. Duff had a similar bill up for second reading.

They were referred to the Legal Committee.

Several private bills were passed through committee.

The Government bills to amend the act for the improvement of public highways and to amend the Ontario medical act were also advanced to third reading.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

Retail Merchants' Request.

A deputation from the Retail Merchants' Association, headed by Mr. E. M. Trowern, the Secretary, waited upon Hon. Mr. Hanna yesterday and asked his support for amendments to the municipal act giving municipalities the power to impose such fees for peddlers' licenses as they see fit.

COLD COMFORT FOR HOTELMEN.

The Government Will Stand by
License Bill.

NO EXTENSION OF HOURS.

A Monster Delegation Asks For
Changes in Act.

Witnesses Are to be Protected—Premier

Whitney States That He Believes
New Measure is Approved of by the
Majority of the People of the Pro-
vince.

Cold comfort was extended to the hotelkeepers of the Province of Ontario by Premier Whitney and Hon. Mr. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, when they replied yesterday morning to a delegation of the Ontario License-holders' Association, which asked for some changes in the proposed new liquor act. The delegation were practically told that the Government proposed to stand by the act, and a request to extend the hours of selling met with an emphatic refusal.

The deputation arrived at the Parliament buildings at about 11 o'clock. There being no room in the building large enough to hold them, they were received by the Premier and his colleagues on the wide steps of the ground floor corridors. The deputation filled the stairways, and occupied a considerable portion of the corridor also.

President Hartnett introduced the deputation's speakers to the members of the Government.

They State Their Case.

Mr. Jas. Haverson, K.C., said the deputation was as much interested in keeping the laws of the Province as any

one. In order that they might do so it was necessary that the law governing them should be well adapted to their calling, and one they could keep with ordinary care and precautions. Proceeding, he expressed the view that from a practical standpoint it would be better if a concession for selling on Sundays at certain hours to guests at hotels was put on the statute books, subject to rigid enforcement. Referring to the license fees, the deputation thought these were too high. The consumption of liquor in the United States was four times greater than here. If the consumption was the same, license holders here would not object to increased fees. He suggested that the fees should be at least one-third those proposed in the bill. If the fees were increased the hours of sale on week nights should be extended to 12 o'clock.

It was urged that the clause in respect to bartenders' licenses should be struck out. If not provision should be made for emergencies, such as the sickness of a bartender, or extra aid needed for special days. The Dominion census should govern in determining the number of licenses in municipalities. It was also desired that closing on polling days should not apply to school elections or municipal bye-elections, and, in any event, should not apply unless the whole municipality is included in the polling. The prohibition of the sale of liquor within 300 yards of fair grounds was regarded as unreasonable. Objection was taken to the penalties, which were considered unnecessarily severe, especially in case of sales to prohibited persons. Provision should be made for the identification of these persons. It was urged that witnesses who violate the law should be punished the same as the license holders.

He also asked if provision could not be made so that licensees might pay their fees in quarterly instalments.

Mr. H. N. Kittson, Hamilton, spoke briefly supporting the opinions expressed by Mr. Haverson.

Hon. Mr. Hanna's Reply.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said the Government asked and hoped to have the assistance of the licensed victuallers of the Province in enforcing the law. In regard to the increase of fees, he said the license laws of Ontario had gone on limiting the number of licenses and thus practically creating a monopoly. This had led to the demand for rentals far in excess of what would be charged on ordinary commercial houses, proving the existence of this monopoly and the ability of the licensee to meet the demand for high rentals. It was the knowledge of that state of things which had actuated the Government.

Will Protect Witnesses.

Speaking of the clause respecting protection of witnesses, he said this was a provision the Government intended to stand by. As to cancellations there were perhaps several violations of regulations which should not contribute to the cancellation of licenses. There was a certain limit beyond which he thought the act should not go, and that clause had been held over. The Government did not intend to upset the present securities, but it intended to discourage the tied house system as far as possible. As to the extension of the hour of sale to 12 o'clock at night, that was against the sentiment of the Province, and the Government's answer was emphatically no.

Premier Whitney declared the Government believed the new license measure was approved of by the majority of the people of the Province. The temperance people had strongly attacked the Government on the measure, the liquor men were to-day recounting objections. It was the duty of the Government to hold the balance evenly between the two. They did not expect to please the extremists on either side, and that was another evidence, he thought, of the wisdom of the course they were pursuing.

PORT ARTHUR'S LAND PLAN

1,400 ACRES BOUGHT FROM LORD STRATHCONA.

Will Extend Park, Build Municipal Dock,
Gain Waterfront, and Encourage
Manufacturing—London After Cheap
Gas—Increase of Capital.

Public ownership received an experimental vindication in the Private Bills Committee when the town of Port Arthur bill came up for approval. As a preliminary a statement was submitted of the income and expenditure of the municipal franchises, showing profits last year on the electric railway of \$10,179; electric light department, \$11,840, and telephone department, \$2,301, a total of \$24,320.

The bill was for the confirmation of a number of by-laws. The one that attracted most attention was in connection with the purchase of 1,400 acres from Lord Strathcona at the east end of the town, which was intended to give a waterfront, with site for a municipal dock, protect the water system from contamination, extend the town park by 183 acres and furnish sites for sale or lease for manufacturing purposes. A clause provided that such transactions should be for not less than the full selling or renting value of the portion so sold or leased, so as to obviate the possibility of bonusing.

Fort William also had a bill reported confirming a by-law to further improve and extend the waterworks, the electric light and the telephone systems.

The Gas Company of London wanted to enlarge its capital from \$250,000 to \$1,200,000, but the committee decided that \$500,000 was quite enough. The bill will come up again next week.